

REMARKS

I. Summary of the Examiner's Action

A. Claim Rejections

In page 3, lines 14 – 15 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3 – 4, 7 – 9 and 11 – 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,926,619 to Badovintz *et al.* (hereinafter “the Badovintz patent”).

In page 5, lines 9 – 10 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Badovintz patent, and further in view of United States Patent No. 6,360, 331 to Vert *et al.*, (hereinafter “the Vert patent”).

These rejections are respectfully disagreed with, and are traversed below.

B. Allowable Subject Matter

In page 7, lines 2 – 4, the Examiner objected to claims 2 and 10 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

II. Applicants' Response – Claim Rejections

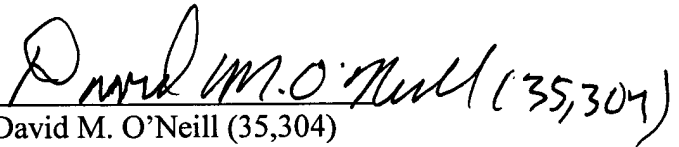
Applicants have amended claims 1 and 9 to recite the subject matter of claims 2 and 10, respectively. As the Examiner objected to claims 2 and 10 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 9 are now allowable. Applicants have similarly amended independent claim 8. Applicants respectfully submit that since independent claim 8 recites similar subject matter as independent claims 1 and 9, claim 8 is likewise patentable.

Applicants respectfully submit that since all of the independent claims now are allowable, the case is in condition for allowance.

III. Conclusion

The Applicants submit that in light of the foregoing amendments and remarks the application is now in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the outstanding rejections be withdrawn and that the case be passed to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,


David M. O'Neill (35,304)

Customer No.: 29683

HARRINGTON & SMITH, LLP
4 Research Drive
Shelton, CT 06484-6212
Telephone: (203) 925-9400
Facsimile: (203) 944-0245
Email: @hspatent.com

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated.

8/3/05
Date

Claine F. Mian
Name of Person Making Deposit